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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,148	09/07/2001	Takeo Yamaguchi	NAII-1-17989	7918

26389 7590 12/28/2004

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EXAMINER

WEINER, LAURA S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1745

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/936,148

Applicant(s)

YAMAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Laura S Weiner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-61 and 63-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 39-57, 59-61 and 66-83 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 15, 19, 21, 24, 25, 31, 32, 38 and 58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18, 20, 22, 23, 26-30, 33-37 and 63-65 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11-26-04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Yamaguchi et al. teaches monomers having an ion-exchange group. Mizutani et al. (3,647,086) teaches in column 1, lines 62-71, membranes made from monomers having functional groups can be changed to ion exchange groups. An exchange group can be vinyl sulfonic acid esters, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, etc. Therefore claims remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (JP 3-98632, translation).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 14-15, 19, 21, 24-25, 31-32, 38, 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (JP 3-98632, translation) evidenced by Mizutani et al. (3,647,086).

Yamaguchi et al. teaches on page 1, a separation membrane for separating an organic solvent mixture, wherein an acrylic monomer is plasma graft-polymerized on a microporous membrane composed of ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene where a pore of the microporous membrane is substantially choked with an acrylic graft polymer, polymethyl acrylate.

Yamaguchi et al. teaches on page 19, example 1, a polyethylene microporous

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membrane irradiated with plasma then immersed into 4% by volume of an aqueous methyl acrylate solution. After drying, a weight of the membrane was measured and a graft polymerization amount was determined by a change from the membrane of initial weight [*teaching monomers having an ion-exchange group*].

Mizutani et al. teaches in column 1, lines 62-71, membranes made from monomers having functional groups can be changed to ion exchange groups. An exchange group can be vinyl sulfonic acid esters, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, etc.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 39-57, 59-61, 66-71, 72-76, 77-83 are allowed.
4. Claims 16-18, 20, 22-23, 26-30, 33-37, 63-65 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

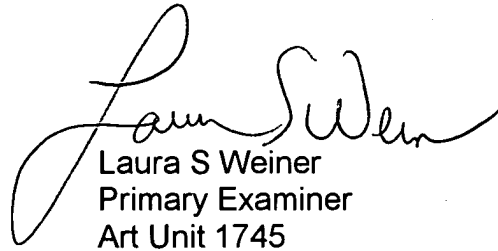
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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura S Weiner whose telephone number is 571-272-1294. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Laura S Weiner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1745

December 23, 2004